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LEES

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1958

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

COUNCIL OFFICES,
CROSS STREET, LEES,
NR. OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE.

URBAN DISTRICT OF LEES.

Chairman of the Council 1958 - 1959.

Councillor H. K. Dyson J. P.

Health Committee 1957 - 1958.

Councillor H. K. Dyson, Chairman.

Councillor J. Gartside.

Councillor S. Pearson.

Councillor F. Ward.

Councillor H. Travis, J. P.

Councillor F. Rowland.

Councillor H. Slack.

Councillor H. Hirst.

Councillor J. G. Gartside.

Councillor H. Sherwin.

Councillor J. A. B. Taylor.

Councillor L. Vaughan.

Councillor O. Bevan.

Councillor A. Barrett.

Councillor F. Scholes.

Medical Officer of Health

T. P. O'GRADY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

"Tylon", Middleton Road, Chadderton.

Tel: MAIn 6251/2.

Public Health Inspector.

VERNON K. HALLOWS, M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices, Lees.

Tel: MAIn 1102.

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Council Offices,
Cross Street,
Lees,
Nr. Oldham.

July, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the Urban District Council of Lees.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1958. The statistical details of the year's public health activities are set out within the body of the report, and I shall here comment briefly on a few points of special interest.

The mid-year population of 3,970 represents a decrease of 190 on the 1951 census return. Deaths during the year totalled 53, the principal causes being diseases of the heart and circulatory system, Cancer and diseases of respiratory system including Bronchitis and Pneumonia which between them accounted for 44 (83%) of the total deaths. Live births numbered 43. There were no maternal deaths but unfortunately two infant deaths ocurred.

The overall incidence of notifiable infectious disease (39) was appreciably less than in the preceding year. There were no resultant deaths. The gradual general decrease in whooping cough incidence over recent years suggests that the immunisation campaign against this serious disease is proving effective. The offer of vaccination against poliomyelitis was extended during the year to all persons aged 6 months to 26 years. The limiting factor in the numbers vaccinated to date has been the uncertainty about regular and adequate supplies being available to meet demands.

Finally I thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and support throughout the year. I acknowledge the help received from the Clerk of the Council, and I am especially indebted to the Public Health Inspector and the staff of the Department for their ever-willing help and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. P. O'Grady

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A.

General Statistics.

Area in Acres	288
Population.	
Census 1951	4,160
Estimated Mid 1958	3,970
Number of Inhabited Houses.	
Estimated End 1958	1,455
Rateable Value	£34,933
Sum represented by penny rate	£132
General rate per pound 1958/9	19s.6d.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births ..... Total 43

	Male	Female	
Legitimate	21	19	
Illegitimate	2	1	
Total.....	23	20	43

Live Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1958.

Crude	10.8
Adjusted (Comparability Factor 1.10)	11.9

Stillbirths	1
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	22.7
Total live and still-births	44
Infant Deaths	2
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total	46.5
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	50.0
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	23.5
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	6.9
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil
Deaths - total	53

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1958 :-

Crude	13.4
Adjusted (Comparability Factor 1.04).	13.9

Comparative Table of Vital Statistics.

		1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Live Births.	No. Adj. Rate	43 11.9	43 11.8	48 13.2	59 16.0	56 15.2
Stillbirths.	No. Rate	1 22.7	3 65	2 40	1 17	2 34
Total (Live & Still Births).	No.	44	46	50	60	58
Total Infant Deaths.	No. Rate	2 46.5	1 23	1 21	1 17	2 36
Legitimate Birth Deaths.	No. Rate	2 50	1 20	1 20	- -	- -
Illegitimate Birth Deaths.	No. Rate	0 Nil	0 Nil	0 Nil	- -	- -
Neonatal Deaths.	No. Rate	1 23.5	0 Nil	0 Nil	1 17	2 36
Total Deaths.	No. Rate	53 13.9	60 15.5	49 12.6	68 15.9	57 13.3
Illegitimate Births % of live Births.	No. Rate	3 6.9	0 Nil	0 Nil	- -	- -
Maternal Deaths.	No. Rate	0 Nil	1 21.74	0 Nil	- -	- -

General Social Conditions.

This small district abuts immediately on the large County Borough of Oldham. It's development initially centred round the main sources of employment namely the Cotton Mills, and comprised a large number of four-roomed terraced cottages. The cotton mills now number three in active production, four converted to other industries and two used as storage places. The terraced cottages remain and are being all too slowly replaced by modern houses.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.	1958 Total.	1957 Total.	1956 Total.	1955 Total.	1954 Total.
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
- Other forms.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective & parasitic disease.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant neoplasms -							
Stomach	-	2	2	1	3	2	2
Lung & Bronchus	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Breast	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Uterus	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Other sites.	1	3	4	3	9	3	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	3	3	6	5	6	9	6
Coronary disease, angina.	5	1	6	8	11	14	5
Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-	1	1	-	3	-
Other heart disease.	5	7	12	9	8	11	15
Other circulatory disease.	4	3	7	5	2	5	7
Influenza.	1	-	1	3	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	1	-	1	4	-	1	1
Bronchitis.	-	3	3	7	2	4	1
Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	1	1	-	-	2	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	2	2	-	2	-	2
Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	-	-	1	-	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostrate.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pregnancy.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Congenital malformations.	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	1	3	4	3	2	5	6
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
All other accidents.	1	-	1	2	1	1	1
Suicide.	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
Totals.....	24	29	53	60	49	68	57

DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS.

Years.	M.	F.	1958 Total.	1957 Total.	1956 Total.	1955 Total.	1954 Total.
Under 1	2	-	2	1	1	1	2
1 - 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
3 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
5 - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
25 - 44	1	-	1	1	-	3	-
45 - 64	6	11	17	18	14	19	14
Over 65	15	18	33	38	33	45	39
Totals.....	24	29	53	60	49	68	57

SECTION B.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

Apart from 22 notified cases of dysentery, infectious disease other than tuberculosis could well be considered non-existent in the district during 1958.

Unfortunately there were again four notifications of new cases of tuberculosis.

No food poisoning, poliomyelitis or diphtheria occurred.

The Acute Rheumatism Regulations 1953 require that cases of acute rheumatism in persons under 16 years of age occurring in certain specified areas shall be notified to the Medical Officer of Health. The Acute Rheumatism (Amendment) Regulations 1959 which became operative on the 16th February 1959 extended this requirement to the County of Lancaster.

These Regulations have in mind that provided diagnosis is reasonably accurate and notifications more or less complete, the data obtained will constitute a useful index of trends in the general prevalence of the disease and also that it will give information about relative incidence in urban and rural environments, together with material for studies of its clinical features and of the influence of various social factors believed to be important in aetiology.

Notifiable Disease (Tuberculosis).

Ages.	New Cases.				Deaths.					
	Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.		Total Cases.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
10-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
15-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
25-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7
45-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3
65-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals.	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	15	12
	3		1		-		-		27	

Notifiable Disease (Other than Tuberculosis).

	Cases Notified. Ages.											Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.	Yearly Totals.				
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25	45	65			1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	7	14	1
Measles.	1	-	1	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	56	-	29	131
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	2	1	9
Polio-paralytic.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polio-Non-paralytic.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.	2	1	2	1	2	9	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	22	-	1	28	6
Food Poisoning.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	-	1
Acute Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Totals.....	3	1	4	3	6	14	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	36	90	20	75	150

SECTION C.

The Lancashire County Council, under the National Health Service Act, is the responsible authority for the provision and maintenance of personal health services. These services e.g.,

Maternity & Child Welfare Services.
Midwifery Services.
Mental Health Services.
Home Help Services.
Ambulance Services.
Care of School Children.
Care of the Aged.
General Welfare Services.

are administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme by Divisional Health Committee No. 14 through the Divisional Medical Officer, "Tylon", Middleton Road, Chadderton (Tel: MAIn 6251).

Ante-natal clinics are held fortnightly in the district and child welfare clinics weekly. No school clinic facilities are available so school children attend in other parts of the Division. The post of District Nurse/Midwife is at present vacant and the district nursing and midwifery duties are carried out by nurses from adjacent parts of the division. Home helps are available to attend households where necessary in cases of confinement, illness, old age and infirmity. Over 70% of the demands on this service are for the care of the aged and infirm. A charge is made for home help services dependent on the means of the person helped.

Hospital facilities are provided and maintained through the Regional Hospital Board and Hospital Management Committees without regard to local authority boundaries.

The examination of pathological specimens and samples of milk, ice-cream, water and other foods is undertaken, without charge to the authority, by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester 10.

The Urban District Council is responsible for those matters likely to affect or be concerned with the maintenance of high standards of environmental health. These include:

Inspection of houses re fitness for human habitation.
Control of infectious disease (Including food poisoning).
Control of slaughtering facilities and inspection of meat.
Control of food and food preparing premises.
Provision of suitable water supplies.
Detection and prevention of nuisances.
Prevention of atmospheric pollution.
Control of rodent and insect infestations.
Collection and disposal of refuse.
Provision of sanitary accommodation and public conveniences.

Report of the Public Health Inspector.

-and-

Cleansing Superintendent.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the District and the work done during the year 1958.

The slow progress of recent years in the elimination of waste water closets, provision of modern and adequate closet accommodation and the implementation of Slum Clearance Schemes continued throughout this year. But however little was accomplished, the ultimate aim became that much nearer.

Details of some of the works carried out are given in the following pages under their appropriate headings.

I would like again to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation for the help and co-operation, so readily given throughout the year, by yourselves, the Medical Officer of Health and the Staff.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Vernon K. Hallows.

Public Health Inspector.

SECTION D.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The whole district is drained and sewered but the authority possesses no sewage disposal works. Sewage is conveyed to sewers of the Oldham County Borough via three main junctions, the respective flows being measured by Lea recorders, and is treated by that authority at their disposal works in Slacks Valley, Chadderton.

Public Cleansing.

A weekly collection of household refuse is maintained throughout the year; collection being direct from household bins to a motor vehicle and disposal by tipping. Tins are recovered for salvage whilst the refuse is being hand levelled at the tip face and some paper is removed for incineration on the tip top.

Dustbins are replaced by the Council, the cost being borne by the general rate fund. 133 dustbins were supplied during the year as replacements.

The number of moveable dustbins in the district is some 1500.

Rodent Control.

No full-time rodent operative is employed, all necessary works being carried out by members of the road maintenance staff who have attended Ministry courses of instruction in rodent destruction. The sewer system receives a twice yearly treatment irrespective of other matters and complaints of rodent infestation are handled as the circumstances permit 37 infestations were successfully treated throughout the year.

Sanitary Accommodation.

All houses in the district are on the water carriage system although not all possess a fresh water closet. 54 waste water closets still remain and progress in their elimination is painfully slow. Two were converted during the year under review.

Number of waste water closets end 1958.	54
Number of conversions during year.	2
Number of fresh water closets.	1500
Number of houses on water carriage system.	1455

Smoke Abatement.

The authority co-operates in the joint scheme for the investigation of atmospheric pollution formed by 27 local authorities and has one lead peroxide guage for the determination of sulphur pollution sited in the Cemetery grounds.

Smoke emissions from factory chimneys during the year did not call for any action other than verbal cautions, but electrification of workplaces continues to be the greatest help in reducing and eliminating smoke emissions.

Water Supply.

The district is served by upland surface water from the Oldham County Borough supply. Filtration and sterilization by the chloramine process takes place at the source of the supply and 16 bacteriological and 4 chemical tests undertaken by the supplying authority were all reported as satisfactory during the year. Two bacteriological samples taken in the district were also reported as satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspections.

During the year 987 visits were made to 451 premises, namely,

377 dwellinghouses.
160 shops and business premises.
15 factories.
6 schools.

In the dwellinghouses 285 defects or nuisances were found and during the year 235 of these matters were remedied. It was found necessary in 9 cases to serve formal notices to ensure that the repairs were carried out, but otherwise 48 informal notices and personal visits obtained the desired results.

5 houses were found to be verminous but each infestation responded to a lindane/DDT treatment and was satisfactorily cleared.

No legal action was called for during visits to the shops and in general conditions are satisfactory.

There are 6 schools in the district, one being a private school. Although each is drained and has a water supply, two schools still possess and have to make use of obsolete trough-type closets, four schools have unsatisfactory washing facilities and three schools have unsatisfactory drinking water facilities.

There are 28 factories among which 32 visits were made. No notices or prosecutions under the Act were found necessary.

Rodent Control Work.

	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Other Premises	Agri-cultural
Number of properties in the district.	11	1455	257	6
Number of properties inspected.	5	62	6	2
Number of properties found infested by:-				
Rats - Major	-	-	-	-
- Minor	4	30	-	-
Mice - Major	-	-	-	-
Minor	1	2	-	-
Number of infested properties treated by local authority.	5	32	-	-

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The majority of the shops in the district sell foodstuffs of one type or another. Out of 90 shops there are no less than 72 selling food for human consumption. The various trades are represented as under:-

General grocers.	21
Greengrocers.	5
Fishmongers.	1
Butchers.	8
Fish Fryers.	7
Bakers/Confectioners.	10
Sugar confectioners.	6
Inns, clubs etc.	12
Others.	2
	72

During the year it was found necessary to issue condemnation certificates in respect of 26 lbs. of food from the above shops. These were the foods concerned:

Tinned Ham.	16 lbs.
Tinned Beef.	10 lbs.

Sampling of foods is carried out by officers of the Lancashire County Council staff and Dr. S.C. Gawne, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., informs me that during the year 8 samples of foodstuffs were obtained in the district.

3 samples	Butter.
2 "	Gravy Browning.
1 "	Cream of tartar.
1 "	Pork sausages.
1 "	Canned asparagus.

19 samples of milk were taken during the year.

There are 35 distributors of milk in the district. Only heat treated milk may be retailed and 26 of the distributors sell only sterilized milk.

The one slaughterhouse continued to be used throughout the year, the record being as under.

	Cattle excl. cows.	Cows	Calves.	Sheep & lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed.	19	56	-	-	-
Number inspected.	19	56	-	-	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.					
Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	3	7	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis.	15.8	12.5	-	-	-
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	3	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	5.35	-	-	-
Cysticercosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases refrigerated.	-	-	-	-	-

The following amounts were found to be unfit for food at the slaughterhouse.

Tuberculosis	Carcase meat	-
	Offal.	50 lbs.
Other disease	Carcase meat	-
	Offal.	120 lbs.

The condemned meat is disposed of by incineration in nearby mill boilers.

SECTION F.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(i) By the local authority	4
(ii) By other bodies or persons.	Nil

Inspection of dwelling-houses.

Number inspected formally or informally for housing defects.	229
Total inspections made.	401
Number found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation.	87
Number made fit following informal action.	67
Number so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation at year end. (Estimated)	150

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

Number in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.	
By owners.	5
By local authority in default.	Nil

Proceedings under Housing Acts.

Number which after service of formal notices were rendered fit	
By owners	2
By local authority in default	Nil
Number demolished	Nil
Number closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owner.	Nil
Parts of buildings closed.	Nil
Number of clearance areas represented.	Nil

Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.

Number closed.	9

Proceedings under Housing Acts 1949/54.

Number of applications for improvement grants made by private individuals.	9
Number of dwellinghouses affected	9
Number of applications approved.	8
Any other action under the Acts.	Nil